

Book review

Maeve O'Connor and F. Peter Woodford: *Writing Scientific Papers in English*. An ELSE-Ciba Foundation Guide for Authors. Elsevier-Excerpta Medica-North-Holland Ass. Sci. Publ. Amsterdam/Oxford/New York, 1975; 108 pp. 9 figures, 4 tables, 5 appendices, general index; Price Dfl 21,00 (ca. US \$ 8.75).

In a review of the (United States Council of Biology Editors) *Style Manual* earlier in this Journal (Neth. J. Plant Path. 74, 1968: 95), I have already stressed that publication is a natural consequence and even essential part of scientific research.

Detailed suggestions for the present book have been made by a *Style Manual Committee* of ELSE (European Life Science Editors: the European Association of Editors of Biological Periodicals). The Committee has been actively supported by Ciba Foundation, an educational and scientific charity for the promotion of international cooperation in medical and chemical research. The publication was also sponsored by the International Union of Biological Sciences, the International Union of Geological Sciences and EDITERRA (European Association of Earth Science Editors).

The guidelines given are in general agreement with the *CBE Style Manual* (3rd ed., 1972), but the present book takes both British and American English into account, as well as certain European printing practices that differ from those in the USA.

In nine chapters, the book deals with planning (1), preparing (2), writing the first draft (3), revising (4), refining (5), typing (6), submitting the final version (7), responding to the editor (8) and correcting proofs (9). There are five useful appendices on steps in writing a paper, units of measure and their abbreviations, general abbreviations and symbols, abbreviations in Biochemistry and Taxonomy and expressions to avoid.

The book has been very clearly written and I found reading it both profitable and interesting. It should be consulted by all who intend to write a scientific paper in English and be kept at hand when doing so. Compared with the *CBE Style Manual*, it is addressed more to the beginner, but experienced authors can also profit from it. Unlike the *CBE Manual*, it does not describe detailed conventions in different disciplines of biology. Its acceptance will also facilitate the task of editors of manuscripts for journals.

L. Bos